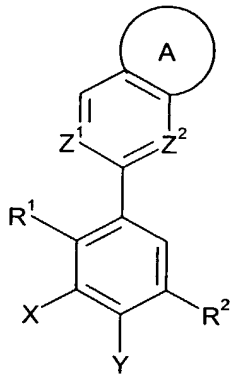
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen which heteroaryl ring is optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, $-(CH_2)_k-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, $-(CH_2)_kOR^3$, $-(CH_2)_kCO_2R^3$, $-(CH_2)_kNR^3R^4$, $-(CH_2)_kCONR^3R^4$, $-(CH_2)_kNHCOR^3$, $-(CH_2)_kSO_2NR^3R^4$, $-(CH_2)_kNHSO_2R^3$, $-(CH_2)_kSO_2(CH_2)_mR^5$, a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl ring containing nitrogen optionally substituted by C_{1-2}alkyl or $-(CH_2)_kCO_2R^3$, and a 5-membered heteroaryl ring optionally substituted by C_{1-2}alkyl;

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen which heteroaryl ring is substituted by $-BR^6$, and

the heteroaryl ring is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from $-OR^7$, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, $-CO_2R^7$ and C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy;

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen which heteroaryl ring is substituted by $-(CH_2)_n$heterocyclyl wherein the heterocyclyl is a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from oxo, C_{1-6}alkyl, $-(CH_2)_p$phenyl, $-OR^7$, $-(CH_2)_pCO_2R^7$, $-NR^7R^8$ and $-CONR^7R^8$, and

the heteroaryl ring is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from $-OR^7$, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, $-CO_2R^7$ and C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy; or

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen which heteroaryl ring is substituted by $-(CH_2)_q$aryl or $-(CH_2)_q$heteroaryl wherein the aryl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from oxo, C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen, cyano,

trifluoromethyl, $-OR^9$, $-(CH_2)_rCO_2R^{10}$, $-NR^9R^{10}$, $-(CH_2)_rCONR^9R^{10}$, $-NHCOR^9$, $-SO_2NR^9R^{10}$, $-NHSO_2R^9$ and $-S(O)_sR^9$, and

the heteroaryl ring is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from $-OR^7$, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, $-CO_2R^7$ and C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy;

R^1 is selected from methyl and chloro;

R^2 is selected from $-NH-CO-R^{11}$ and $-CO-NH-(CH_2)_t-R^{12}$;

R^3 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by up to two OH groups, $-(CH_2)_k-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_k$phenyl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14} and $-(CH_2)_k$heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14},

R^4 is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^3 and R^4, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15};

R^5 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by up to three halogen atoms, C_{2-6}alkenyl optionally substituted by phenyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, heteroaryl optionally substituted by up to three R^{13} and/or R^{14} groups, and phenyl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14};

R^6 is a C_{3-6}alkyl group substituted by at least two substituents independently selected from $-OR^{16}$, $-NR^{16}R^{17}$, $-CO_2R^{16}$, $-CONR^{16}R^{17}$, $-NHCOR^{16}$ and $-NHSO_2R^{16}$;

R^7 and R^8 are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^9 is selected from hydrogen, $-(CH_2)_u-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_u$heterocyclyl, $-(CH_2)_u$aryl, and C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from $-OR^{18}$ and $-NR^{18}R^{19}$,

R^{10} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^9 and R^{10}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15};

R^{11} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, $-(CH_2)_t-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, $-(CH_2)_v$heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{20} and/or R^{21}, and $-(CH_2)_v$phenyl optionally substituted by R^{20} and/or R^{21};

R^{12} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, $-CONHR^{22}$, phenyl optionally substituted by R^{20} and/or R^{21}, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{20} and/or R^{21};

R^{13} and R^{14} are each independently selected from halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, nitro, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-CONR^{22}R^{23}$, $-COR^{24}$, $-CO_2R^{24}$, and heteroaryl, or

R^{13} and R^{14} are linked to form a fused 5-membered heterocyclyl ring containing one heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15}, or a fused heteroaryl ring;

R^{15} is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{19} are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{20} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, $-(CH_2)_t-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, $-CONR^{22}R^{23}$, $-NHCOR^{23}$, halogen, -CN, $-(CH_2)_wNR^{25}R^{26}$, trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more R^{21} groups, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by one or more R^{21} groups;

R^{21} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl, and -$(CH_2)_wNR^{25}R^{26}$;

R^{22} and R^{23} are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{22} and R^{23}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15}, wherein the ring may be substituted by up to two C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^{24} is C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{25} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and -$(CH_2)_t$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by C_{1-6}alkyl,

R^{26} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{25} and R^{26}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15};

B is selected from a bond, oxygen, NH and $S(O)_x$;

X and Y are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and halogen;

Z^1 is N or N=O and Z^2 is CH,

Z^1 is CH and Z^2 is N or N=O, or

Z^1 and Z^2 are each independently selected from N or N=O;

k, m and w are each independently selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3;

n, q, r, s, t and x are each independently selected from 0, 1 and 2; and

u and v are each independently selected from 0 and 1;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is a 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein A is substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, -$(CH_2)_kNR^3R^4$, -$(CH_2)_kNHCOR^3$, -$(CH_2)_kNHSO_2R^3$ and -$(CH_2)_kSO_2(CH_2)_mR^5$, or A is substituted by -$(CH_2)_q$aryl wherein the aryl is optionally substituted by one or two substituents independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen, cyano, -OR^9 and -$(CH_2)_rCO_2R^{10}$.

4. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein A is substituted by -$(CH_2)_kSO_2(CH_2)_mR^5$ or -$(CH_2)_q$aryl wherein the aryl is substituted by C_{1-6}alkyl or halogen.

5. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R^1 is methyl.

6. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R^2 is -CO-NH-$(CH_2)_t$-R^{12}.

7. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein X is hydrogen or fluorine.

8. A compound according to claim 1 substantially as hereinbefore defined with reference to any one of Examples 1 to 58, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

9. A compound selected from:
N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{1-[(1-methylethyl)sulfonyl]-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl}benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-5-[1-(2-thienylsulfonyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-[1-(2-thienylsulfonyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-[1-(cyclopropylsulfonyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]-5-fluoro-4-methylbenzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-[1-(3-methylphenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-5-(1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl)benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-[1-(2-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;
3-fluoro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl]-4-methyl-*N*-(1-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)benzamide;
3-fluoro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-*c*]pyridin-6-yl]-4-methyl-*N*-(1-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)benzamide;
3-[3-(acetylamino)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl]-*N*-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{3-[(2-methylpropanoyl)amino]-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl}benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-[3-(propanoylamino)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl]benzamide;
and
N-(6-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)-2-thiophenecarboxamide;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents and/or carriers.

11. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, for use in therapy.

12. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of a condition or disease state

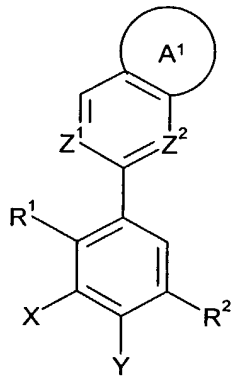
mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase.

13. A method for treating a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

14. Use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase.

15. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, which comprises

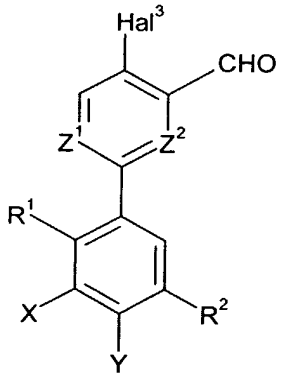
(a) reacting a compound of formula (II)



(II)

in which R^1, R^2, X, Y, Z^1 and Z^2 are as defined in claim 1 and A^1 is an unsubstituted fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen with a halide derivative,
in the presence of a base;

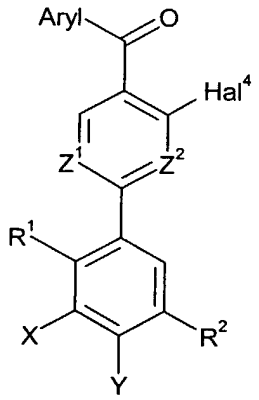
(b) when A is a fused pyrazolyl, reacting a compound of formula (XI)



(XI)

in which R^1, R^2, X, Y, Z^1 and Z^2 are as hereinbefore defined and Hal^3 is halogen, in particular chlorine, with a hydrazine derivative;

(c) when A is a fused pyrazolyl substituted by aryl, reacting a compound of formula (XII)



(XII)

in which R^1, R^2, X, Y, Z^1 and Z^2 are as hereinbefore defined and Hal^4 is halogen, in particular chlorine, with a hydrazine derivative; or

(d) final stage modification of one compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 to give another compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.